

# Weekly Views

August 31, 2012

Over 300 Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) staff members, representing 17 teams, participated in the 2012 FedEx Plane Pull Challenge at the former Indianapolis International Airport. Through various fundraisers and donations, the IDOC raised over \$30,000 for Special Olympics Indiana. While everyone put forth a valiant effort to pull the 164,000 pound FedEx Boeing 757 across the tarmac, Putnamville Correctional Facility's team, The Dark Knight Rises, not only won the Public Safety category but also had the fastest time overall, pulling the plane 12 feet in just 6.026 seconds. Many other IDOC teams also took home prizes for the competition. Commissioner Lemmon expressed his gratitude to those who contributed to this event. He also commented on how remarkable it was to see so many IDOC staff on their day off supporting a great cause and that he would like to see this become an annual event for staff. Among the teams that participated were: IDOC SERT, Central Office, Pit Bulls and Parole Agents (Parole Division), Girls of RDC, Indiana State Prison, Correctional Industrial Facility/Pendleton Juvenile, Rockville, Plainfield, Logansport Juvenile, Madison Dream Team (Madison/Madison Juvenile), Miami, Wabash Valley, Putnamville, Westville/Camp Summit, Pendleton, Edinburgh, and New Castle Correctional Facility. Donations for Special Olympics also came from Henryville, Branchville, and Chain 'O Lakes Correctional Facilities. (see photo left of all 17 IDOC Plane Pull Teams)

Miami Correctional Facility staff, led by Officer Randy Bingle, held a benefit to raise money for Officer Jody Buell who was diagnosed with Colon Cancer in April. Buell has been a Correctional Officer at Miami for nine years. The benefit brought in more than \$2,100. Several current and former employees attended the event along with Officer Buell.

Several students and a staff member from Camp Summit performed community service at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City. This year the Center sponsored the Lakefront Art Festival and the students assisted in putting up tents, fences and general labor and broke-down the tents upon completion of the festival. The festival, which was open to the public, was held at Washington Park at the beach and displayed work from over one hundred national and local artisans. Alison Jackson, coordinator of the festival, stated the work performed by the Camp Summit staff and students was a tremendous boost to the success of the festival.

Indianapolis Parole District#3 agents and supervisors, in conjunction with the Marion County Sheriff's Department (MCSD) Sex and Violent Offender Unit, participated in a week-long activity to inspect Marion County sex offenders under parole supervision for compliance with parole expectations and their responsibility with all facets of sex offender registration, identification, and residency. Positive contacts were made with many in compliance with expectations. Others received the benefit of intermediate sanctions and warnings, and some were arrested for serious parole violations or outstanding warrants. All computers and cell phones in their direct possession received cursory forensic review as well and no additional criminal charges resulted from these investigations. This activity was sponsored by a Project COPS Grant awarded to MCSD for this express purpose.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Superintendent Linda Commons announced the promotions of Correctional Lieutenant Sabrina Ivy and Correctional Sergeant Eric Coffin. Superintendent Commons states, "These individuals bring a commitment to support the philosophy of the Division of Youth Services and the willingness to improve the conditions of confinement for the youth. We are confident that they will excel in their new roles."

Nine Pendleton Correctional Facility offenders received a special haircut, donating their hair to the Locks of Love organization based in West Palm Beach Florida. Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under the age of 21 who are suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

Francina Carter, from the National Institute of Correction's (NIC), conducted a train-the-trainer certification program at the Correctional Training Institute. Ms Carter is the NIC's National Director of both the Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWSDS) and the Transition from Prison to Community (TCP) programs. Eleven individuals who completed Indiana's OWDS training in 2011 or 2012 were certified as OWDS trainers, and now carry the additional certification of Offender Workforce Development Specialist Instructor.

The Indiana Women's Prison Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) offender handlers and dogs created their own abstract painting on canvas using tempera paint on the dogs' paws, noses, ears and tails. The ICAN art will be auctioned off to help fund the "Decade of Dogs" fundraiser dinner on November 10.

The Putnamville Correctional facility completed their year two ACA Electronic Facility Review scoring 100% on mandatory standards and 98.02% on non-mandatory standards. Superintendent Stanley Knight commended staff stating that the scores reflected the great job that staff perform each day.

